

7 October 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy CIA COMINT Control Officer

SUBJECT: Special Use of COMINT

1. Permission is requested for use of COMINT information at the SECRET level in this month's issue of Communist Aid and Trade Activities in Less Developed Countries (published monthly).

2. Attached are two articles which we should like to publish with a classification of SECRET/NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS.

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A copy of each source is also attached.

3. May we use this information at the SECRET level?

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Alternate OER COMINT Officer

Attachments:

As stated in para. 2

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Communist Arms Transfers to Major Arab Countries in 1975

Arms deliveries of almost \$650 million to major Arab countries in the first 9 months of the year could mean that 1975 deliveries will match the \$1 billion 1974 level (see Table 1). The major change will be the emergence of Libya for the first time as the largest recipient among Arab clients. It displaces Iraq and Syria, who received three-fourths of the Middle East total in 1974 and accounted for 60% of all Communist military deliveries to the Third World.

By the end of September, Libya's share was only slightly below the combined total for Iraq and Syria. Flows to Egypt, which were higher in 1975 than last year, were apparently cut off at mid-year.

TABLE 1
Value of ^{Communist} Equipment Deliveries To Major Arab Clients


Million US \$		
Recipient	1 Jan-30 Sep 75	1974
Total	646	967
Egypt	155	91
Iraq	150	337
Libya	231	90
Syria	110	449

337
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LIBYA

Libya is upgrading its arms inventory to enhance its prestige among Arab states and as a hedge against possible hostilities in the Middle East. The advantages of complementarity of equipment with the Soviet holdings of the belligerent Arab states probably has outweighed Tripoli's previous reluctance to expand relations with Moscow.

Equipment orders for 1974 - 1975 total about \$750 million, mostly with the USSR.

Designed to bring Libya's arms inventory qualitatively more in line with those of Syria and Egypt, sophisticated weapons were introduced this year, including SA - 3 and SA - 6 missile systems, and TU - 22 long-range bombers. (see Table 2). ^{OTHER} Iraq is the only Third World country, ^{TO} ~~the~~ acquires the TU - 22. 

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Tripoli's impressive new array of Soviet equipment clearly will increase its dependence on the USSR for technicians and other support personnel. Military instructors already are being transferred to Libya from Egypt as their contracts expire. → IR 6 849 620 X 705 (

sentence in brackets deleted

Libya probably will remain a major Arab client for some time to come as existing contracts are fulfilled. For the USSR, cash payments have made the Libyan arms trade highly attractive. Moscow also may view the arms supply relationship as a means to acquire military facilities to replace those lost in Egypt.

Egypt

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~~By mid-year~~ the transfer of [REDACTED] aircraft to

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Egypt [REDACTED] (including Cairo's first MIG-23s)

pushed the value of deliveries above last year's level before military deliveries were halted, at mid-year. Soviet military support to Egypt, which has dropped dramatically from the crisis level of 1973 because of political frictions between the two countries, apparently were again suspended because of a ^Tsalemate in military debt negotiations.. No settlement is expected this year. As a consequence, Egypt has intensified negotiations with Western arms suppliers.

Communist Equipment Deliveries to Major Arab States
1 Jan - 30 Sep 1975

Recipient	Equipment	25X1B
Egypt	25X1B [REDACTED] MI-8 HELICOPTERS	MIG-23 jet fighters MIG-21 jet fighters SU-20 jet fighters medium tanks
Iraq		MIG-23 jet fighters MIG-21 jet fighters Yevgena class minesweepers OSA II guided missile patrol boats ZUUK patrol boats 180mm field guns armored cars
Libya		TU-22 bombers MIG-23 jet fighters SA-2 missiles SA-6 missile equipment medium tanks 150mm anti-aircraft gun armored personnel carriers radar
Syria		MIG-21 jet fighters SU-20 jet fighters Petya II class destroyer escort ship heavy tanks armored cars MI-8 helicopters

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Iran
Moscow apparently agreed in July to provide \$18 million of new aid to build housing at Ahwaz, in southern Iran, bringing total Soviet aid to that country to \$800 million. The new credit, which is repayable over 7 years, covers the foreign exchange costs of the \$36 million project.

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[REDACTED]

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REMARKS

